

Appendices

Appendix A: Full search strategy

1. Relevant professional associations were identified by consulting a practicing professional in each of the listed fields reviewing the preliminary list of Canadian, American, and UK professional associations as in table below. Next, each association's website and journal were searched for practice guidelines using the terms and by searching indexed guidelines.

Professional Group	Professional Association	URL
Pediatricians	Canadian Paediatric Society	http://www.cps.ca
	American Academy of Pediatrics	http://www.aap.org
	Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (UK)	www.rcpch.ac.uk
Developmental Paediatricians	American Academy of Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine	http://www.aacpdm.org
	Society for Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics	http://www.sdbp.org
		www.bacdis.org.uk
	British Academy of Childhood Disability	

Neurologists	American Academy of Neurology	https://www.aan.com
	Canadian Neurological Sciences Federation	http://www.cnsfederation.org
	British Paediatric Neurology Association	www.bpna.org.uk
Child Psychiatrists	Canadian Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry	http://www.cacap-acpea.org/en/cacap/
	American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry	http://www.aacap.org
	The Association for Child and Adolescent Mental Health (UK)	www.acamh.org
Clinical Psychologists	Canadian Psychological Association	http://www.cpa.ca
	American Psychological Association	http://www.apa.org
	British Psychological Society	www.bps.org.uk
Speech-Language Pathologists	Speech-Language and Audiology Canada	http://sac-oac.ca
	American Speech-Language-Hearing Association	http://www.asha.org

	The Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (UK)	www.rcslt.org
Occupational Therapists	Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists	https://www.caot.ca
	American Occupational Therapy Association	http://www.aota.org
	British Association of Occupational Therapists and College of Occupational Therapists	www.cot.co.uk
Teachers	Canadian Teachers' Federation	http://www.ctf-fce.ca/en
	American Federation of Teachers	http://www.aft.org
	Association of American Educators	http://www.aaeteachers.org
	National Union of Teachers (UK)	www.teachers.org.uk
	National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers (UK)	www.nasuwt.org.uk

UK = United Kingdom

2. Searched health, psychology, and education citation databases.

3. The National Guideline Clearinghouse, operated by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality through the United States Department of Health and Human Services (2015), was also searched using the ASD search terms.
4. The Grey Matters grey literature search tool (Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technology in Health, 2014) was used to identify additional guidance document repositories. The ASD search terms were applied for each listed website.

Search results were recorded, including the number of documents retrieved per database, the number of duplicates, and how many of these met the inclusion and exclusion criteria according to the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) statement (Moher, Liberati, Tetzlaff, Altman, & the Prisma Group, 2009).

Appendix B: Data Extraction sheet for government guidance documents

Data Extraction Sheet - Government

☐ Federal ☐ Provincial (which province): _____

Name of document: _____

Date of document: _____ Retrieval date: _____

1. Does the document mention a targeted age for diagnosis? Y/N Age: _____
2. What are the strategies employed to meet this target?
 - a. Screening
 - b. Increased capacity for subspecialist diagnosis
 - c. Increased capacity for diagnosis among generalists
 - d. Other (specify): _____
3. Does the document mention a targeted time from referral to diagnosis? Y/N
4. What are the strategies employed to meet this target?
 - a. Increased capacity for tertiary centre diagnosis
 - b. Increased capacity for community subspecialist diagnosis
 - c. Increased capacity for community generalist diagnosis
 - d. Other (specify): _____
5. Does the document mention which professional(s) can provide a diagnosis of ASD? Y/N
6. If so, which professionals?

a. Developmental Paediatrician	e. Psychiatrist	h. Speech-Language Pathologist
b. General Paediatrician	f. Child Psychiatrist	i. Occupational Therapist
c. Neurologist	g. Clinical Psychologist	j. Other
d. Family Physician		(specify): _____
7. Are multiple professional assessments necessary? Y/N
8. Which professionals?

a. Developmental Paediatrician	e. Psychiatrist	h. Speech-Language Pathologist
b. General Paediatrician	f. Child Psychiatrist	i. Occupational Therapist
c. Neurologist	g. Clinical Psychologist	j. Other
d. Family Physician		(specify): _____
9. Are there guidelines for which tool(s) must be completed for a diagnosis of ASD? Y/N
10. If so, which one(s)?

a. Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS)	c. Childhood Autism Rating Scale (CARS)
b. Autism Diagnostic Interview – Revised (ADI-R)	d. Other (specify): _____
11. Does the document have clearly stated eligibility criteria for provincially funded ABA/IBI?
 - i. Is there an upper age limit? Y/N
 1. If yes, age: _____
 - ii. Is provisional diagnosis acceptable for waitlist entry? Y/N
 - iii. Is definitive diagnosis required for waitlist entry? Y/N
 - iv. Do certain professionals have to be involved in the diagnosis? Y/N
 1. Which ones?

a. Developmental Paediatrician	e. Psychiatrist	h. Speech-Language Pathologist
b. General Paediatrician	f. Child Psychiatrist	i. Occupational Therapist
c. Neurologist	g. Clinical Psychologist	j. Other
d. Family Physician		(specify): _____
 - v. Do certain tools have to be used in the diagnosis? Y/N
 - vi. Which ones?

a. ADOS	c. CARS
b. ADI-R	d. Other (specify): _____

Appendix C: Data extraction sheet for guidance documents released by professional associations

Data Extraction Sheet – Professional Association

Name of Professional Association: _____

Guideline date: _____ Retrieval date: _____

1. Who is the guideline's target audience?
 - a. Paediatricians
 - b. Developmental Paediatricians
 - c. Neurologists
 - d. Psychiatrists
 - e. Child Psychiatrists
 - f. Clinical Psychologists
 - g. Speech-Language Pathologists
 - h. Occupational Therapists
2. Does the guideline mention a targeted age for diagnosis? Y/N Age: _____
3. What are the strategies employed to meet this target?
 - a. Screening
 - b. Increased capacity for subspecialist diagnosis
 - c. Increased capacity for diagnosis among generalists
 - d. Other (specify): _____
4. Does the guideline mention a targeted time from referral to diagnosis? Y/N Time: _____
5. What are the strategies employed to meet this target?
 - a. Increased capacity for tertiary centre diagnosis
 - b. Increased capacity for community subspecialist diagnosis
 - c. Increased capacity for community generalist diagnosis
 - d. Other (specify): _____
6. Does the guideline mention which professional(s) can provide a diagnosis of ASD? Y/N
7. If so, which professionals?
 - a. Developmental Paediatrician
 - b. General Paediatrician
 - c. Neurologist
 - d. Psychiatrist
 - e. Child Psychiatrist
 - f. Clinical Psychologist
 - g. Speech-Language Pathologist
 - h. Occupational Therapist
 - i. Other (specify): _____
8. Are multiple professional assessments necessary? Y/N
9. Which professionals?
 - a. Developmental Paediatrician
 - b. General Paediatrician
 - c. Neurologist
 - d. Psychiatrist
 - e. Child Psychiatrist
 - f. Clinical Psychologist
 - g. Speech-Language Pathologist
 - h. Occupational Therapist
 - i. Other (specify): _____
10. Are there guidelines for which tool(s) must be completed for a diagnosis of ASD? Y/N
11. If so, which one(s)?
 - a. Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS)
 - b. Autism Diagnostic Interview – Revised (ADI-R)
 - c. Childhood Autism Rating Scale (CARS)
 - d. Other (specify): _____

Appendix D: Type and scope of guidance documents

Guideline, Year	Type of document	Scope of document
AAN, 2000	Practice Parameter	“Practice parameters are strategies for patient management that assist physicians in clinical decision making. A practice parameter is one or more specific recommendations based on analysis of evidence of a specific clinical problem,” (Filipek, Accardo, Ashwal, Baranek, Cook, et al., 2000).
AAP, 2001	Policy statement	“Policy statements are organizational principles to guide and define the child health care system and/or improve the health of all children,” (American Academy of Pediatrics, 2015).
BC, 2003	Standards and Guidelines	“...to provide minimum standards required in British Columbia to make a diagnosis of ASD in children under the age of six; to assist in establishing eligibility for ASD intervention services; and to establish consistency in the ASD diagnostic process across the province,” (Dua, 2003).
ASHA, 2006	Guideline	“The guidelines within this document fulfill the need for more specific procedures and protocols for serving individuals with autism spectrum disorders across the lifespan,” (American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, 2006).
AAP, 2007	Clinical report	“Clinical reports provide guidance for the clinician in rendering pediatric care” (American Academy of Pediatrics, 2015).

NZ, 2007	Guideline	“Evidence-based practice guidelines are produced to assist health professionals, educators and consumers make decisions about education and optimum care in specific clinical circumstances.” (New Zealand ASD Guideline, 2007)
SIGN, 2008	Guideline	“The aim of this guideline is to provide the evidence base and recommendations to inform clinical service provision.” (Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network, 2008)
Miriam, 2008	Best practice guidelines	“[These guidelines are] not mandatory and may or may not be consistent with current provincial legislation or organizational policy. They are intended as aims or ideals for clinical practice, research and policy, given the current scientific evidence and expert consensus,”(The Miriam Foundation, 2008).
AOTA, 2009	Practice guideline	“...define the occupational therapy domain, process, and intervention that occur within the boundaries of acceptable practice,” (Tomchek, 2009).
NICE, 2011	Guideline	“NICE guidelines make evidence-based recommendations... These aim to promote integrated care where appropriate,” (National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, 2014)
AACAP, 2014	Practice parameter (Patient- oriented)	“Patient-oriented Parameters provide recommendations to guide clinicians toward best assessment and treatment practices,” (Volkmar et al., 2014)

Guidelines are listed in chronological order. AAN = American Academy of Neurology; AAP = American Academy of Pediatrics; BC = British Columbia; ASHA = American Speech-Language-Hearing Association; NZ = New Zealand; SIGN = Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network Miriam = Miriam Foundation; AOTA = American Occupational Therapy Association; NICE = National Institute for Health and Care Excellence; AACAP = American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry